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Official paper of Clatsop county and the City of Astoria.

WEATHER.

Western Oregon—Fair; increasing cloudiness showers north coast.

### THE ETERNAL TUG-OF-WAR.

The fact that our Swede and Finn friends here in Astoria are going to repeat their strenuous game and pull off another tug-of-war not only to determine the issue of national prowess, but for an even thousand dollars, reminds us of the universal, endless, wearisome tugs-of-war-and-welfare in which the major portion of the human family is engaged, day in and day out, through the years of life; how the prizes in the game shift and vary, fall and rise, come and go, are saved and squandered, while the great game goes on forever.

At times the contestants are narrowed down to two, and again there are groups contending and not infrequently, nations are almost evenly divided, in the unceasing conflict of strength, courage, endurance, advantage, and loss how patience and power and passion are squandered in the tremendous conflicts, that in the end mean only, for the most of us, the right and the means to live on and on, the prizes all in sight, yet unavailable because we dare not cease "tugging" lest we weaken our line-up and lose utterly.

The only compensation in the arduous and ceaseless expense of effort is that it is the part of a man to work, to strive, to suffer and strain, and to sink only after he has done his duty. There are those who fall off the rope early in the game and sink, indifferently, aside, to fall under the feet of the barrier line that holds fast to the end, and these weaklings serve only to emphasize the faith and courage of those who stay in the game. The great human tug-of-war tells upon every faculty known; there are tugs at love, honesty, pluck, strength, conscience, truth and faith, as well as upon all the lesser elements of nature and upon all the acquired graces of life. The man who stays with the maddening strain gets his reward though he may be far from realizing it.

### THE FLAME OF COURAGE.

To the student of history as it is making, these days, the record of disaster, loss, suffering, outrage, and wrong, thrust upon the city of San Francisco, by nature, and by man, forms a sum that staggers belief and begets a doubt of latter-day human sanity. In the past 17 months her people have passed through a schedule of public evils that would have crushed almost any other community into the very earth, and must have vanquished her, only for the unquenchable, ever-dominant and superb spirit that gave her her existence and her supremacy among the great cities of the world.

There is, in this metropolis of the Pacific, so devout a loyalty, so ungrudging a faith, so proud and constant a courage, born of, and nurtured with, the place, that there is nothing in the possibilities of evil that can wreck her beyond the salvaging hands of her people. It is magnificent, and inspiring to towns and cities less popularly blessed. The San Francisco spirit is the finest example, in the annals of America, of communal adhesion and unified strength of purpose, and the loftiest purpose at that; not even Chicago, the Phoenix city of the world, can claim equal honor with stricken San Francisco, for the metropolis of the lakes had the sole, though almost infinite, ruin of fire to contend with and make good while the western town has run the full gamut of civic disasters, and yet is swinging along, full of hope, with every phase of her strength in full play, the object of world-wide amazement and universal pride.

There is not a city nor town that can-

not find something worthy of emulation of the revivication of San Francisco; that cannot well take on some of the indomitable essence of mastery that is re-energizing and re-adjusting the municipal life and destiny of this great coast town.

The flame of her perfect courage has never died down for an hour; but has flared and burned, and warmed and brightened and heartened her people, incessantly and always; a very torch of triumph and light of promise to all men, and not alone to the people within her broken gates.

This is the spirit that makes for progress; this first-principle of cohesion and unwavering faith and relentless effort, following swift after, this is the stuff that cities are made of, and we need a dash of it right here in little old Astoria. Of course, there are others; we might name a hundred places that would profit by an injection of this wonderful municipal elixir; but we can take liberties with our own town that might be resented elsewhere; and we make the suggestion applicable here, only because we are of Astoria, and for Astoria; and expect to be with Astoria, always.

Mesmer The Mystic.  
Ross' Fall Millinery Opening, Monday, September 16th, 1 P. M.

### EDITORIAL SALAD.

London labor unions are demanding a state pension of \$1.25 a week for everybody over sixty years of age. Suppose all the Indian pensioners and retired officials of the kingdom will be permitted to decline to accept the responsibility for caring for the additional cash if the scheme is adopted.

If Mr. Roosevelt should indeed decide to beguile his retirement by running a newspaper, there will be an unanimous vote of the staff that he have the job of boiling down the president's message.

Southern employers of labor who are promotion high class immigration are due to run up against the fact that while high class immigration proposes to work, it prefers to work for itself.

Of course there will be no reason in the rule against your wearing any straw hat; but that straw hat.

Bill Ward says: "The perfect newspaper means perfect men to produce it."

Some belated agitator has started the discussion: "Should wives get salaries?" Wouldn't it be more apropos to discuss: "Should husbands get rebates for turning over the pay-envelope unopened?"

Perchance the tremors which the seismographs have been registering for a few days are not earthquakes after all; they may be only the shake-up in the navy.

An exchange says that "Mr. Taft is looming up on the western horizon." Looming up is all right and the western horizon would best look to its constitution.

It is much cheaper as well as safer to go clothed with humility rather than lace, especially when the customs officers are on the alert for smugglers.

It is reported that drummers for the trade are now soliciting orders for skates. But not in Georgia or Kentucky.

The enforcers of the pure food laws need to get busy: whisky is said to be going into Georgia—in anticipation of 1908 demands—labeled "Paint."

A Kansas City block is credited with 24 saloons. Nothing like providing for hourly emergencies of the day.

Poor fallen Runyan. He was even mistaken for a Pittsburg millionaire!

Mesmer—Mesmer The Mystic.

### Lost and Found.

Lost, between 9:30 p. m., yesterday and noon today, a bilious attack, with nausea and sick headache. This loss was occasioned by finding at Chas. Rogers' drug store a box of Dr. King's New Life Pills. Guaranteed for biliousness, malaria and jaundice. 25c.

Mesmer—Mesmer The Mystic.

### The Touch That Heals.

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## AFTER RATES AGAIN

Roosevelt Disatisfied With Railroad Law Workings.

### TO STRENGTHEN STATUTE

Will Make New Recommendations in His Next Message to Congress—Lower Tolls to be a Means For Stimulation of Trade.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 13.—Disatisfied with the workings of the railroad rate law, President Roosevelt is said to have embodied in his message to the Sixtieth Congress recommendations for the strengthening of the statute. The Interstate Commerce Commission is almost buried in work as a result of the measure, which is said not to furnish the relief the administration and the American people expected. Now the believers in lower transportation tolls as a guarantee of a greater flow of the traffic are casting about for some means of stimulating trade.

Just at this time, when experts are very much at sea, Major Riche of the Army Engineer Corps has supplied some figures hat have shed a new light on the subject. Major Riche's report to the War Department in lengthy, but the meat of his argument is to be found in a short table of comparative figures that, though extremely brief in itself, contains volumes of inspiration.

This table makes comparison between the rates from St. Louis to St. Paul, 573 miles by rail and 729 miles by river, and from St. Louis to Oklahoma City, 343 miles by rail with no waterway competition.

Major Riche, who has charge of the improvement work on the upper Mississippi river, has unwritten endorsed the chief contention of the National Rivers & Harbors Congress that developed rivers and harbors will do more to solve the rate problem than all the laws enacted by the federal or state legislatures. The organization has kept constantly before the American people and their representatives at the national capital the necessity for expending not less than \$50,000,000 a year on these improvements. Capt. J. F. Ellison, of Cincinnati, its secretary and treasurer, is preparing for the next national convention to be held here in December, by striving to increase the membership until it shall embrace every shipper and every commercial community in the United States.

In presenting his figures, Major Riche devotes a little space to pointing out the discrepancy in rates between points at the mercy of the railroads and those within reasonable distance of navigable streams. He says:

"While it is not claimed that river improvements are solely responsible for the great difference in freight rates above shown, it is well known that wherever water competition exists, whether by river, lake or canal, its effect on freight rates is always beneficial to the public, and so long as the navigation of the Mississippi river is practicable and somewhat in proportion to the feasibility of that navigation, such benefit will accrue even if but little river commerce is actually carried on."

There is little doubt that the appropriations for rivers and harbors by the next Congress will establish a record. President Roosevelt is deeply interested in the subject and is to take a trip down the Father of Waters the latter part of this month, ending his voyage at Memphis, where he is expected to make a powerful speech at the Deep Water Convention. This, beyond question, will stimulate the growing interest in the subject and lead to greater activity in the improvement of the rivers and harbors of the United States.

Mesmer—Mesmer—Mesmer The Mystic.

### TELL OF INDIANS.

BERKELEY, Sept. 13.—John Daggett, ex-Lieutenant-Governor of the state, is to address a meeting of the California branch of the American Folk Lore Society on "Klamath River Indian Life" at a meeting to be held in South Hall on the University Campus on Tuesday evening. The lecture is to be illustrated with lantern slides. The general public has been invited to the lecture.

It comes put up in a collapsible tube with a nozzle, easy to apply to the soreness and inflammation, for any form of Piles, it soothes and heals, relieves the pain, itching and burning. Man Zan Pile Remedy. Price 60 cts. Guarantee. Sold by Frank Hart's Drug store.

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CANADA DENOUNCES ENGLAND

Claims that Treaty With United States over Fisheries Unfair.

WASHINGTON, D. C. Sept. 13.—Under the impression that Sir Robert Bond had secured about everything of importance that he wished included in the modus vivendi relative to the Newfoundland fisheries, the state department officials were surprised to read a report that the premier has denounced the imperial government for concluding the arrangement which was absolutely necessary to prevent serious friction between the two great nations.

The statement is made that with the single exception of asserting the rights of American vessels to ship Newfoundlanders as fishermen, the American government has, for the sake of peace, surrendered all of the extreme points claimed by it. And this right of shipping fishermen is likely to be exercised in a manner least likely to offend Newfoundland's pride, for the men are to be taken aboard off shore and not within the territorial waters of the colony, although the Americans have always insisted that they had the right under the treaty to take the men off the docks if they cared to ship there.

If the Newfoundland premier carries out his announced purpose of executing colonial laws even where they conflict with the American treaty rights, it will be the duty of the British government to deal with the case, and no concern of the state department.

Mesmer The Mystic.

WHITE HOUSE GLISTENS.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 13.—President Roosevelt will hardly recognize the White house when he returns from his vacation, on account of the cleaning and painting it has undergone during the summer. Eight hundred pounds of white lead have been spread over its exterior in two coats, so that now the old mansion fairly glistens in the sunlight.

Mesmer—Mesmer—Mesmer The Mystic.

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